

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PASS EPA

FOR SCI/EN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TGEN, US, FR

SUBJECT: US-FRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

REF: A) PARIS 24510; B) PARIS 24555; C) PARIS 25165

SUMMARY: EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AND EPA EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASING THE LEVEL OF US-FRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. USEFUL FIRST STEP WOULD BE VISIT OF EPA OFFICIALS, PERHAPS BY EPA ADMINISTRATOR WHOM FRENCH ENVIRONMENT MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO MEET AGAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. FRENCH HAVE DEVOTED INCREASING ATTENTION TO COMBATTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN PAST FEW YEARS, PARTICULARLY SINCE ESTABLISHMENT IN EARLY 1971 OF NEW MINISTRY (MINISTERE DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT). GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH REACHED ABOUT \$20 MILLION IN 1972 AND HAVE RISEN SINCE. MORE RECENTLY, ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS WITH TARGET INDUSTRIES FOR COSTLY LONG-TERM REDUCTIONS IN POLLUTION (REF A), AND IS ALSO TAKING LEAD IN FRENCH EFFORT TO PROMOTE EUROPEAN

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CONVENTION TO CONTROL LAND-BASED SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION

(REFS B AND C).

2. EVIDENCE OF RISING FRENCH INTEREST AND CAPABILITIES INDICATES THAT THIS MAY BE OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASING BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. ON INFORMAL BASIS, FRENCH HAVE LONG SHOWN INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH U.S. NEVERTHELESS, ASIDE FROM THREE-YEAR OLD LE VAUDREUIL PROJECT, US-FRENCH ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION REMAINS AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL. WHAT APPEARS TO BE NEEDED NOW IS BILATERAL COMMITMENT ON FORMAL LEVEL, FOLLOWED PERHAPS BY EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS QUALIFIED TO CHOOSE SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR COOPERATION.

3. ENVIRONMENT MINISTER POUJADE MENTIONED RECENTLY TO THE AMBASSADOR HIS PERSONAL WISH TO RECEIVE EPA ADMINISTRATOR RUSSELL TRAIN, WHOM HE MET IN THE U.S. AND FRANCE WHILE TRAIN WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. ACCORDINGLY, EPA ADMINISTRATOR MAY WISH TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF VISIT OR STOPOVER PARIS, PERHAPS AFTER CCMS PLENARY IN BRUSSELS OR IMCO OCEAN POLLUTION CONFERENCE IN LONDON. IF POSSIBILITY OF VISIT EXISTS, EMBASSY WOULD THEN SEEK TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH FRENCH ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY. NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RAISED POSSIBILITY OF TRAIN VISIT WITH FRENCH.

4. ALTERNATIVELY, OR AS FOLLOW-UP TO TRAIN VISIT, WE SUGGEST EPA CONSIDER SENDING PROGRAM-LEVEL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS COOPERATION WITH FRENCH ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS AND TO HELP ESTABLISH LEVEL OF FRENCH COMPETENCE IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO U.S.

5. STATED US-FRENCH ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION OFFERS SEVERAL POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES: ONE, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND POOLING OF RESEARCH EFFORTS; TWO, PROMOTION OF COMMON VIEWS ON ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS; AND THREE, POSSIBILITY OF OPENING FRENCH MARKET TO U.S. MANUFACTURERS OF POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT. IRWIN

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## Message Attributes

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